

Competition Guidelines

The Daycare Games is designed to be a fun way to improve handler skills. We've created some basic guidelines to help keep the playing field fair and to allow for some healthy and fun competition.

Playgroups

- Staff teams should **subdivide very large groups of dogs**. (For example 3 staff are supervising 43 dogs in one play area. Assign staff 1 – the first 15 dogs, staff 2 – the next 14 dogs and staff 3 – the last 14 dogs on the list). **Scoring for all events is based of a group size no bigger than 10-15 dogs.**
- To fairly divide dogs, a **random selection** can be used, or staff can take turns picking dogs for their group (like kids choose teams in elementary school)
- Each staff should complete each event **individually**. (Two handlers cannot perform an event “together”).
- **Dog playgroups must be “as is”** (e.g., you cannot put the hard dogs on a rest period during the event)

Commands

- Only **positive dog management tools** should be used during the competition events (e.g., body blocking, praise, verbal cues). There should be NO use of prong collars, choke collars, electronic shock collars, muzzles, or physical manipulation.
- **Verbal cues and hand signals** are appropriate tools in all events, but **no touching** is allowed.
- **No food, treat lures, or rewards can be used**
- **Dog body language** during the events should be “**green**” with **minimal stress signals**.

General

- Staff may practice the event as many times as they desire throughout the competition week. **Submit the best score from the week.**
- The **Dog Guru Community Honor Code** should be adhered to by honestly following all rules and accurately reporting event scores
- **IMPORTANT:** Be sure to submit each staff's score by the weekly deadlines. The **posting deadline is firm** due to the time it takes to process, analyze, and determine winners. Scores submitted after the deadline will not be included for that event. We recommend setting calendar reminders or other double checks each week to ensure the person responsible for submitting scores submits timely. The Dog Gurus regret when the hard work of staff cannot be included in the results, but we cannot make any exceptions and manage the games fairly for all other participants.